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Approved For Release 2009/03/04 : CIA-RDP89B00423R000400410004-3

THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Council

24 April 1984

NOTE FOR THE DIRECTOR

Attached for your signature is proposed response to the letter from Dick Delauer regarding the quality of US education and research in science and engineering.

Julian C. Nall
NIO for S&T

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

DDI- 02491/84

DCI CHRONO

27 APR 1984

The Honorable Richard DeLauer
Under Secretary of Defense for
Research and Engineering
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Dick:

I appreciate your sending to me a copy of your letter to the President about the quality of US education and research in sciences and engineering. I share your view and assure you of my assistance in any appropriate way as you continue to encourage the President to take the initiative on this important subject.

You might be interested to know that we are just beginning a National Intelligence Estimate which will address Soviet education and research in sciences. It will also estimate the trends in the quality of Soviet scientists, their facilities, and instrumentation. I have asked Julian Nall to keep you informed as work on this Estimate progresses.

Thank you again for letting me know of your concern and I am happy that you have alerted the President.

Yours,

/s/ Bill

William J. Casey

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ROUTING SLIP

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Remarks

Please prepare an acknowledgment for DCI's signature.

STAT

Executive Secretary

20 April 1984

Date

3637 (10-81)

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING

16 APR 1984

Honorable William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I wrote recently to the President, which Cap forwarded with his endorsement.

I have been concerned for some time that deteriorating conditions in scientific and technological research and education are affecting our competitive stance in the world, as well as our national security.

From my vantage point, I have seen first-hand how these problems are adversely affecting all aspects of the country's scientific and technological strength -- from basic research to the most advanced development and production in all fields from medicine to electronics, from biotechnology to aerospace.

In my letter I have proposed a "Presidential Initiative to Restore America's Leadership in Science and Technology." I would very much appreciate your sharing this with your colleagues, as well as any other support you would be willing to provide, to see that this initiative receives the national attention it deserves.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

Approved For Release 2009/03/04 : CIA-RDP89B00423R000400410004-3

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In 1957 when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the Eisenhower Administration initiated an intensive campaign to regain our world leadership position in science and technology. For about a decade following that event, the United States built a scientific and technological base second to none by supporting quality education and research in the sciences and engineering which paved the way for today's advances in medicine, agriculture, energy, electronics, and aerospace -- advances undreamed of in 1957. A key ingredient in those years was a vision of what could be achieved by educators, industry and government working together to strengthen science and engineering research and education at all levels.

Since the mid-70's however, we have allowed our technological lead to erode and our support for education and research to decline. Our research and teaching institutions already are having serious difficulties producing the quality scientists and engineers needed to regain the technological lead so essential to our future security and economic well-being.

Recent studies now show that as the economy improves and production increases, the United States will experience serious shortages of certain types of scientists, engineers and other trained support personnel in fields vital to both the nation's economic health and its defense. Shortfalls in some specialty areas are already slowing our recovery, and will affect such pioneering efforts as DoD's strategic defense initiative and NASA's space station, as well as our continuing advances in fields such as microelectronics and biotechnology.

Education at all levels is at present unprepared to meet this challenge: the deteriorated state of high school education in science and mathematics has recently been well-documented, while similar studies of higher education have revealed major deficiencies in engineering faculty, obsolete laboratory facilities and equipment, and large declines in the numbers of American citizens pursuing advanced degrees. We can no longer rely on our educational institutions alone to provide the levels of science and engineering education required to maintain

leadership in an increasingly technological world. A renewal of our traditional collaboration among schools, universities and high technology workplaces is essential if we are to recover lost ground and maintain our technological edge.

Restoring America's technological leadership in the world poses both a challenge and new opportunities for your next term in office -- a challenge which you have recognized by directing renewed attention to education, defense and space exploration, and opportunities which you have already addressed in your State of the Union message. I believe that now is an opportune time for a Presidential initiative to restore the United States' scientific and technological leadership position in the world. I propose that such an initiative become part of the Republican Party Platform, and subsequently be given the high priority it deserves in your next Administration. The national climate for increased investment in research and education which your support can generate will ensure that your vision of a stronger and safer America will come true.

I would be happy to assist in any way I can with the development of this plank for the platform, and further to prepare a plan for achieving this objective during your next four years in office.

Sincerely,